

The New Energy Communities (NEC) Initiative

- Funding Criteria -

The Department of Local Affairs, in coordination with the Governor's Energy Office, will utilize three primary criteria in evaluating applications for the New Energy Communities Initiative.

1. Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program criteria
2. Potential for energy savings through the regionally-planned use of strategic energy conservation retrofits and the use of renewables
3. Demonstration of how the project fits into a broader regional and community effort to make communities more livable and sustainable

Part I: Energy and Mineral Impact Program Grant Criteria

- Energy/Mineral relationship
- Addresses community/regional goals addressed in policies and plans
- Capacity (cash and in-kind match, regional organizational structure and plan to manage the project, sustainability/project coordinator)
- Potential for replicability/demonstration value
- Measurable Outcomes

Part II: Governor's Energy Office Program Criteria

Check which programs are being featured in project application:

- Greening Public Facilities
- Renewable Energy Demonstration Project
- LED (light emitting diodes) Communities
- Small Commercial Audit and Retrofit Program
- Residential Solar Electric and Solar Hot Water
- Insulate Colorado Program
- ENERGY STAR New Homes Program
- Small Wind
- Greening Government
- Model Codes
- Sustainability Coordinator (in-house or through a consultant)

Criteria:

- Investments in strategic energy conservation retrofits and use of renewables (to get the biggest return on investment)

- Investments that yield economies of scale efficiencies through the combined implementation of energy saving/renewable projects, joint bidding and management
- Programs address residential, commercial and public (government) needs
- Analysis of potential for energy savings

Part III: Livability/Sustainability Criteria

- Collaborative partnerships between at least two units of local government and other community stakeholders
- Clear intention to enhance existing downtown areas and make them more sustainable, creating live-work-shop-play environments
- Commitment to enhancing quality of life standards such as environmental quality, economic opportunity, transportation options, and housing availability
- Land use planning policies enhance rather than run counter to energy conservation and sustainability goals